

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend independent claim 1 to include therein selected limitations from dependent claim 7.
2. Amend independent claim 8 to include therein selected limitations from dependent claim 14.
3. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication 2003/0099321 to Juan et al in view of U.S. Patent 5,679,624 to Das. All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include selected limitations from dependent claims 7 and 14, respectively, and thus now further specify that the delay component comprises plural signal phase take off points, the plural signal phase take off points having differing phase shifts relative to one another. Thus, Applicants obtain different phase differences from the DLL (200), which is made possible by accessing proper points in the delay line. These points are geometrically defined along the line. The phase differences may for example be 90°, 180°, 270° and 360° (see page 4, line 22-28 and page 5, line 21-23 of the specification). The obtained phases may (for example) be used as quadrature phases.

US 2003/009321 describes a prior art DLL with a primary coarse delay line and secondary fine-tune delay line elements. The delay lines comprise discrete delay

elements. US 5679324 shows a general passive tunable delay line which is formed in MMIC technology.

Applicants submit that the person skilled in the art would not combine a DLL delay circuit (having discrete elements and discrete take-off points) such as US 2003/009321 with a passive tunable delay line such as that of US 5679324. US 5679324 has only one output, and takes considerable pains by use of a matching transformer 3 to match the one output to an output circuit. The person skilled in the art would realize that US 5679324 is confined to a one takeoff point application and therefore would not take from US 5679324 a feature such as formation of a delay line using a conductor on a dielectric material. Accordingly, the rejection fails in view of, e.g., the improper combination.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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